

PTO/SBA/08A (10-98)
Approved for release through 10/31/99. OMB 0851-0031
Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

PTO/SB/08A (10-96)

Approved through 10/31/99. OMB 0651-0031

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/781,378
--------------------	------------

Filing Date	02/12/01
-------------	----------

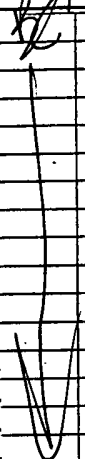
First Named Inventor	Hein, et al
----------------------	-------------

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number	4969-SL-CT
------------------------	------------

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials ^a	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	01	3,856,654	U	George	12/1974 08/26/71	Abstract
	03	3,892,198	U	Dobson	7/1975 07/01/75	Fig. 1
	02	4,877,505	U	Bergmann	10/1989 06/22/88	Fig. 2
	04	5,370,737	U	Mathis	12/1994 12/28/92	Fig. 2A
	05	5,690,796	U	DuPont et al	11/1997 10/05/95	Fig. 4
	06	5,759,677	U	Fink	6/1998 06/11/96	Abstract
	07	5,800,688	U	Lantsman et al	9/1998 04/21/97	Fig. 1
	08	5,814,415	U	Movsan III et al	5/1999 03/16/97	Abstract
	09	5,879,532	U	Foster et al	3/1997 07/09/97	Fig. 2
	10	5,948,548	U	Welty et al	7/1999 04/30/97	Fig. 1
	11	6,045,667	U	Moll	4/2000 06/16/98	Fig. 1
	12	6,106,958	U	Sugg et al	8/2000 04/20/97	Abstract & Fig. 1
	13	6,132,889	U	Welty et al	10/2000 07/30/99	Abstract & Figs 1 and 2
	14	6,143,424	U	Jonte et al	11/2000 11/20/98	Abstract & Fig. 1

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
Signature**

Date Considered

11/3/02

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

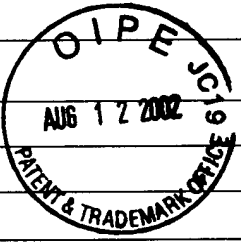
¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.**

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute of form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	09/781,378
				Filing Date	February 12, 2001
				First Name Inventor	Gerald F. Hein
				Group Art Unit	1762
				Examiner Name	Chen
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	84555/9013

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	4,973,388	Francois et al.	11/27/1990
	5,234,561	Randhawa et al.	8/10/1993



RECEIVED
 AUG 15 2002
 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials	Country Code	Foreign Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	EP	0974684	Hauzer Ind	1/26/2000
	EP	0798572	GEC Marconi, Ltd.	10/1/1997
	GB	2202237	Vac-Tec Systems	9/21/1988

RECEIVED
 AUG 22 2002
 TC 1700

COPY OF PAPERS
 ORIGINALLY FILED

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	11/3/02
---------------------------	--	------------------------	---------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 0231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

X:\CLIENTB\084555\9013\A0418813.1